Inmate Medical Fees

706.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide facility staff and qualified health care professionals with the information necessary to educate newly processed inmates on the procedures and their responsibilities for inmate medical fees at the time of intake.

706.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this office that all individuals booked into and held at the facility shall be informed of the guidelines associated with inmate medical fees. All inmates will be advised of the guidelines in writing during the orientation. This information will be conveyed in a language that is easily understood by the inmate.

The inmate medical fee shall be waived for any service that is initiated by medical staff, including follow-up appointments, mandated health screening, work clearance, chronic care and mental health care.

It is the policy of this office that necessary medical services will not be denied or delayed because of disputes over the cost of medical care or a determination of financial responsibility (RCW 70.48.130).

706.3 INMATE MEDICAL FEE GUIDELINES

(a) Inmate-initiated medical visits will result in a fee to the inmate.

(b) Medical staff will complete a log of medical fee charges and forward the log daily to the custodial administration. The inmate’s account will then be debited for the inmate's medical fee. The inmate shall be provided treatment regardless of his/her ability to pay the fee.

(c) The following inmate health services shall be exempt from medical fees:

1. Intake medical screening
2. Health appraisals (14-day physicals)
3. Public health evaluations
4. Prenatal services and all services related to pregnancy
5. Public health programs that are funded by other sources
6. Life-threatening emergency services
7. Follow-up monitoring of chronic health conditions (e.g. hypertension services, seizure monitoring, medication monitoring)
8. Educational information on the inmate’s condition
9. When an assault requires medical attention

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Any incident of an inmate refusing medical treatment or causing a disruption in the delivery of health care services shall be documented in an incident report and a refusal of service form should be completed and signed by the defendant. The original incident report shall be forwarded to the contract medical provider or designee and a copy sent to the Chief Deputy of Corrections.

706.4 FEE APPEAL PROCESS

Inmates charged for health services shall be permitted to challenge the fee in accordance with the Inmate Grievances Policy.

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